



**SOUTH
CAROLINA
PORTS**

LeadLine: Intel for Savvy SC Port Clients

August 2016

Mercedes-Benz Vans Breaks Ground For New Sprinter Plant

Mercedes-Benz Vans took a giant leap forward in the production of Sprinter Vans in the United States when it broke ground on its new plant in North Charleston, SC on July 27. The \$500 million project will expand the current assembly plant into a full-scale manufacturing operation. When complete, the new plant is expected to employ up to 1,300 workers, create 400 new jobs from suppliers, and generate significant container volume via the Port of Charleston.



[Breaking Ground
Fast-Growing Auto Sector](#)

FY2017 Starts Strong; FY2016 Volumes Out-Pace The Market

The Port of Charleston handled 177,265 TEUs in July, a record for SCPA July container volumes and an increase of 1.2% over last July. For FY2016 which ended June 30, Charleston handled 1.9 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), an increase of 1.4 percent over the previous year. During the same period (July 2015-June 2016) volume for other South Atlantic ports collectively came in at -0.8 percent. SCPA Breakbulk tonnage exceeded planned volumes by 33 percent with 901,974 pier tons handled. Roll-on/roll-off cargo within the breakbulk sector grew 8 percent over the previous year totaling 274,426 vehicles.

[FY2016 Summary
July Volume](#)

AGS Continues To Improve Efficiency

The SCPA's new gate system continues to post improvements in efficiency at the Wando Welch Terminal. WWT is handling 5,000 transactions per day on a regular basis now with truck turn times averaging below 30 minutes. August 16 was the best day yet with 5,430 gate transactions with an average truck turn time of 24 minutes per transaction. AGS was installed at WWT in late June. A roll-out date for installation of AGS at North Charleston Terminal is forthcoming.

[AGS Update Webpage
WWT Live Cameras](#)

Yanfeng Automotive Opens South Carolina Operation

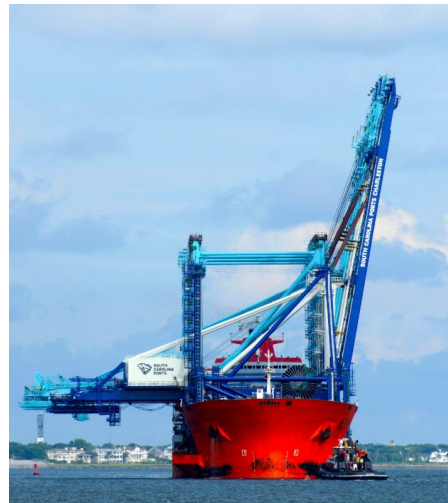
Yanfeng Automotive Interiors, the world's largest supplier of automotive interior components, is establishing operations in Laurens County. The company recently completed the acquisition of Faurecia's Fountain Inn, S.C. manufacturing plant located at 101 International Boulevard. The acquisition includes the existing 365,000-square-foot plant and its current employees. Yanfeng will also be expanding the plant by an additional 100,000 square feet to accommodate future new business. The Shanghai-based company will supply BMW with interior components, including door panels, instrument panels and floor consoles, for multiple models.
[more](#)

SC International Trade Conference September 12-14

The 43rd Annual South Carolina International Trade Conference is just around the corner and registrations are still available. This year's event features a blockbuster list of executives from leading beneficial cargo owners, ocean carriers, service providers, industry consultants, and author David Marquet, author of the Amazon #1 best selling book "Turn The Ship Around." To register or sponsor visit the conference website: www.SCITC.org

Port of Charleston Receives New, Larger Cranes

The delivery of two 155-foot high super post-Panamax cranes to the South Carolina Ports Authority's Port of Charleston on August 5 marked a significant milestone in the Port's big ship readiness, to be followed in the coming years by the completion of the Wando Welch wharf project and harbor deepening to 52 feet. The cranes, produced by Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industry Co., Ltd. (ZPMC) are located at the Wando Welch Terminal. Two additional cranes of this size have been ordered and scheduled for delivery at the end of 2017. [more](#)



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